



# Help for Massachusetts Survivors and Victims' Families

Resources and contacts for those in Massachusetts who were injured or lost loved ones in The Station nightclub fire

## Financial Resources

### **Social Security Administration**

1-800-772-1213

TTY 1-866-545-7316

Social Security may provide monthly survivor benefits to the families of those who lost their lives in the fire. Those who suffered critical injuries might be eligible for Social Security disability benefits.

### **Rhode Island Dept of Human Services (DHS)/United Way Fund**

Massachusetts families can call the Rhode Island DHS for assistance in accessing United Way relief funds. (After April 1, the funds will be administered by the Rhode Island Foundation. Process to be determined.)

### **Massachusetts Department of Transitional Assistance**

1-800-249-2007

[www.mass.gov/dta](http://www.mass.gov/dta)

May provide financial benefits to families who have lost income and resources due to the fire. May also provide emergency shelter benefits for families who have lost housing. Families eligible for financial assistance also receive MassHealth coverage and are usually eligible for food stamp benefits.

### **United Way First Call for Help**

1-800-231-4377

This program does not have its own funds, but staff are familiar with other private and public sources of assistance and can provide referrals for financial and emotional assistance.

## Food

### **Project Bread: FoodSource Hotline**

1-800-645-8333

[www.gettingfoodstamps.org](http://www.gettingfoodstamps.org)

A counselor will talk to you about your immediate and long-term needs and will help you to access free food resources as well as food stamps, the Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, and free breakfast/lunch programs for children in school.

## Fuel and Utility Assistance

### **Massachusetts Department of Housing & Community Development Bureau of Energy Programs**

One Congress Street

Boston, MA 02114

The HEATLINE: 1-800-632-8175

Pays for fuel delivery or back utility bills for individuals and families who qualify. Also may help with electricity, heating repair, and weatherization. Families on fuel assistance, food stamps, Medicaid, SSI, DTA are automatically eligible for emergency assistance.

### **The Good Neighbor Energy Fund of Salvation Army**

1-800-334-3047

Offers assistance to families in limited income households who are not otherwise eligible for fuel assistance.

### **Citizens Energy Oil Heat Program**

1-877-JOE-4-OIL (1-877-563-4645)

Refers families in need for one-time deliveries of discount home heating oil.

### **Verizon**

1-888-382-6500

Provides \$13 reduction in monthly phone bill for families who qualify.

### **Link-Up America Program**

1-800-555-5000

Provides 50% reduction in standard installation charges for local telephone service.

### **Massachusetts Electric**

1-800-322-3223 (general customer service line)

Offers discount on bill for families who qualify.

### **NSTAR**

1-800-592-2000 (Press –0- for Operator, ask to speak to someone about Discount Program)

Provides up to 42% discount on gas rates for individuals who qualify.

## Other State Agency Resources

### **Governor's Office:**

**Harry Loomos**

**Nancy Murphydoyle**

**Office of the Governor, External Relations**

State House, Room 111

Boston, Massachusetts 02133

617-725-4005

617-727-9725 fax

Can assist and advocate for victims seeking benefits from state agencies.

## **Massachusetts Probate Court**

[http://www.mass-doc.com/probate\\_court\\_dir.htm](http://www.mass-doc.com/probate_court_dir.htm)

The Massachusetts Probate Court settles estates of Massachusetts residents who died. Families should work with the court in the county where their loved one lived. Visit the web site above or **see the attached contact list** for court phone numbers.

## **Medical Assistance**

### **Hospital Free Care**

If seeking treatment at your area hospital, inquire about the hospital's Free Care Department, which can arrange free medical care for uninsured and low-income patients.

### **Mass Health**

1-800-242-1340 (Southeastern Region—will direct other callers to appropriate regional office)  
Pays for healthcare for certain low- and medium-income people living in Massachusetts.

### **MassMedLine**

1-866-633-1617

[www.massmedline.com](http://www.massmedline.com)

Can help Massachusetts residents apply for programs to cover prescription costs. Callers should have readily available their social security numbers, doctors' names and numbers, prescription medications, and income and insurance information.

## **Counseling and Support Groups**

### **The Massachusetts Office for Victim Assistance (MOVA)**

**One Ashburton Place, Suite 1101**

**Boston, MA 02108**

**[www.mass.gov/mova](http://www.mass.gov/mova)**

MOVA funds local programs to offer free counseling and support groups for survivors and families of victims. **See the attached list** for a program in your area, or call the MOVA office directly at (617) 727-5200.

### **The Compassionate Friends**

**Rick Dugan**

Regional Coordinator-Eastern MA & RI

21 Corrine Drive

Framingham, MA 01701-3209

(508) 877-1363

[rickdugan-TCF@rcn.com](mailto:rickdugan-TCF@rcn.com)

The mission of The Compassionate Friends is to assist parents, grandparents and siblings towards the positive resolution of grief following the death of a child of any age and to provide information to help others be supportive.

[www.compassionatefriends.com](http://www.compassionatefriends.com)

## Other Help and Support

### **Lions Club Extended Family Program**

Charles Kostro  
(978) 263-7800

Can offer personal and practical help and support by linking families in need with local Lions Club members. Lions Club members may provide assistance as varied as helping to fill out paperwork, providing transportation to appointments, or household maintenance such as lawn-mowing.

## Community Resources

### **Good Grief Program at Boston Medical Center**

Maria Trozzi  
(617) 414-4005

Available for teacher and parent workshops in helping adults to assist children of different developmental ages understand the tragedy of the fire in Rhode Island.

## Attorney Referrals

### **National Crime Victim Bar Association**

2000 M Street, NW, Suite 480  
Washington, DC 20036  
Phone (202) 467-8753  
Fax (202) 467-8701  
E-Mail [victimbar@ncvc.org](mailto:victimbar@ncvc.org)  
[www.victimbar.org](http://www.victimbar.org)

Provides referrals to local attorneys specializing in victim-related litigation. The referral service can be reached at (202) 467-8753, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday. Questions can also be e-mailed to [victimbar@ncvc.org](mailto:victimbar@ncvc.org).

### **Rhode Island Bar Association**

Lawyer Referral Service  
(401) 421-7799

The Lawyer Referral service directs clients impacted by The Station nightclub fire to pro bono (free) attorney services for Rhode Island and federal legal issues such as bankruptcy, family law and probate issues.